

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - SOARES U.S. VISIT

1. SOARES N.Y. AND WASHINGTON VISIT WAS LEAD ITEM IN RADIO, TV NEWSCASTS APRIL 20-21 AND ON NEWSPAPER FRONT-PAGES, WITH PRINCIPAL NEW EMPHASIS ON U.S. ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSAL FOR EUROPEAN CONFERENCE TO COORDINATE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL. THIS REPORT WAS GIVEN MAJOR ATTENTION BY APRIL 21 STATE RADIO AND IN LEADING CIRCULATION PRO-GOP "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS", WHICH HEADLINED ITS APRIL 21 REPORT FROM CORRESPONDENT JOSE RICARDO: "TO TAKE PLACE IN PARIS OR IN OSLO" JAMES CARTER PROPOSES CONFERENCE FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL." LEAD OF THAT ARTICLE WAS: "PRESIDENT JAMES CARTER PROPOSED TO WESTERN COUNTRIES A CONFERENCE IN PARIS OR OSLO TO COORDINATE FINANCIAL EFFORTS FOR RECOVERY OF THE PORTUGUESE ECONOMY. IN THIS CONTEXT, IT APPEARS THAT THE U.S. 1.5-BILLION-DOLLAR LOAN TO PORTUGAL (SIC) IS ASSURED.

FURTHER, PRESIDENT CARTER YESTERDAY SIGNED A LAW GRANTING A 300-MILLION DOLLAR LOAN TO PORTUGAL ... FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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TODAY'S TALKS IN WASHINGTON WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND THE WORLD BANK IT IS HOPED WILL EMERGE THE CREATION OF CONDITIONS WHICH WILL PERMIT DEVELOPMENT OF FINANCIAL AID TO PORTUGAL REGARDING ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF THE COUNTRY CONSIDERED INDISPENSABLE TO THE STABILITY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REGIME... TODAY'S TALKS COULD BE CONSIDERED CRUCIAL FOR THE

'DEMARCHES' WHICH WILL FOLLOW IN EUROPE REGARDING THE PREPARATION OF THE FINANCIAL BASE OF ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN SEEKING THIS DEVELOPMENT, AND THROUGH IT, THE CONDITIONS WHICH WILL PERMIT STABILITY IN PORTUGAL..."

2. APRIL 21 COMMUNIST "O DIARIO" AND CENTER-RIGHT "O DIA" BOTH BASED MAJOR PLAY RE CONSORTIUM LOAN ON REPORT FROM U.S. BY CORRESPONDENT OF ANOP, OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY. CURIOUSLY, ANOP REPORTER WAS QUOTED BY "O DIA" AS SAYING TALKS WITH CARTER AND VANCE ON CONSORTIUM "WILL BE THE MOST TRYING POINT OF THE SOARES TRIP TO THE U.S., GIVEN THE DIFFICULTIES WHICH HE MAY ENCOUNTER AT THE WHITE HOUSE BECAUSE THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION IS HAVING PROBLEMS DUE TO CARTER'S ENERGY POLICY. NEVERTHELESS, THE PORTUGUESE OFFICIAL PARTY SHOWS AN 'OPTIMISTIC SPIRIT' SAYING THAT 'WE ALSO HAVE OUR TRUMP CARDS AND ALTERNATIVES TO PRESENT' SO THAT THE PROMISE ON THE 'MAJOR LOAN' REQUESTED BY THE LISBON GOVERNMENT MAY BE CARRIED OUT. THE JOURNALIST ACCOMPANYING OUR PRIME MINISTER REVEALS THAT THE MEETING WITH CARTER WILL LAST AN HOUR AND REGRETS, ONCE AGAIN, THAT 'THE U.S. PRESS AND TELEVISION CONTINUE TO GIVE LITTLE ATTENTION TO THE PRESENCE OF SOARES IN THE U.S.'..." (STATE RADIO APRIL 21 REPORTED THAT HOUR-LONG CARTER-SOARES MEETING HAD BEEN LENGTHENED BY ANOTHER HALF-HOUR.) "O DIARIO" USED SAME ANOP REPORT IN A CYNICAL WAY.

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3. OTHER PRINCIPAL THEMES OF VISIT WERE SOARES APRIL 19 PRESS CONFERENCE AT U.N.; SOARES' HUMAN-RIGHTS AWARD, AND HIS REASSURANCES TO POTENTIAL U.S. INVESTORS. HEADLINES: FRONT-PAGE APRIL 20 CENTRIST "A CAPITAL" -- "SOARES IN U.S.: (ECONOMIC) SITUATION WILL STABILIZE IN '82-'83 IF LOAN OBTAINED," ACCOMPANIED BY TWO-COLUMN PHOTO OF SOARES WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG); PRO-SOCIALIST "A LUTA" FRONT-PAGE APRIL 20 -- "PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC SITUATION COULD STABILIZE IN 1981-1982 WITH 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS IN AID, MARIO SOARES SAID YESTERDAY IN N.Y."; CENTER-RIGHT "JORNAL NOVO" APRIL 20 PAGE 8 -- "TO BE RECEIVED TOMORROW BY CARTER: SOARES SAID AMERICANS CONTINUE TO BE INTERESTED IN INVESTING IN PORTUGAL"; FRONT-PAGE LEFTIST "DIARIO POPULAR" APRIL 20 -- "AFTER MEETING WITH MARIO SOARES: AMERICAN CAPITALISTS INTERESTED IN INVESTING IN PORTUGAL." STATE TELEVISION'S APRIL 20 PRIME-TIME EVENING NEWCAST FEATURES SATELLITE FOOTAGE OF SOARES N.Y. PROGRAM, SHOWING AMBASSADOR YOUNG SPEAKING AND GIVING A BEAR-

HUG TO SOARES DURING PRESENTATION OF HUMAN-RIGHTS
AWARD.
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